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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT Warsaw Fire Brigade

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a report on the Warsaw Fire Brigade, including its current and wartime organization and personalities connected with it, and organization charts.

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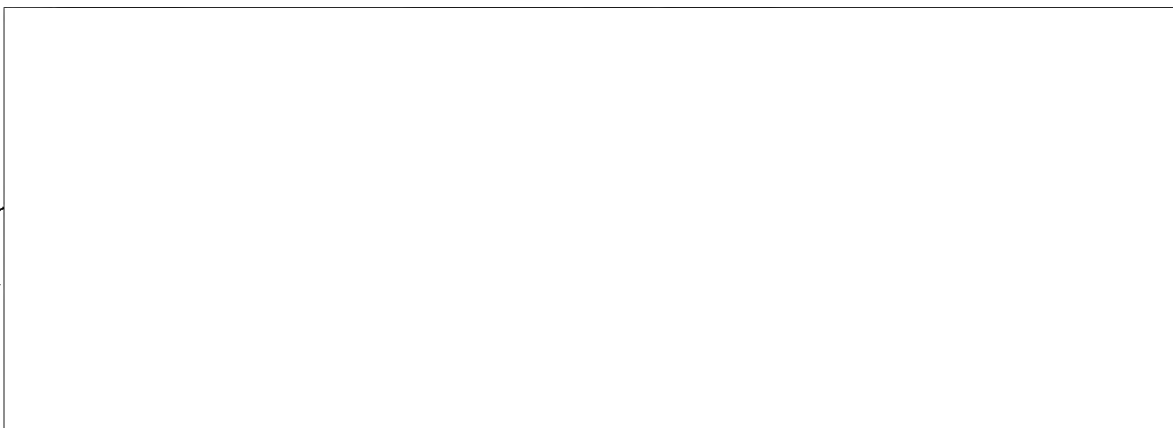
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COUNTRY: Poland

SUBJECT: The Warsaw Fire Brigade



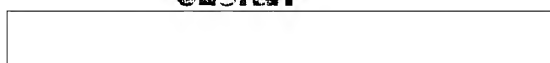
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1. The Central Fire Brigade Directorate is situated at 9 Ujar-chowskie Street in Warsaw. It is subordinate to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, coming under the competence of Deputy Minister Stefan Antosiewicz. The directorate is directly supervised by several inspectors of the Ministry.

2. The Fire Brigade Directorate is headed by a commander and his deputy, as well as by a civilian board with a president and a director. The Voluntary Fire Brigade Association has about 350,000 members, and much has been done recently to broaden its scope of activities. In medium-size industrial plants of lesser importance, voluntary fire

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brigades are replacing the military organization, although the latter are still operating in major plants. Voluntary fire brigade boards have been attached to local councils and are financed by them. The voluntary brigades are not subordinate to the military, but are paid and equipped by the respective local authorities. In some plants, women are also on the staff of the fire fighting service.

3. The Warsaw Area Fire Brigade headquarters (WKSP) is located on Polna Street. The brigade comprises the following detachments:

a. 1st Detachment, located on Torunska Street, Targowek. It is equipped with one fire engine, one tank car, and one radio set.

b. 2nd Detachment, located in Wtochy, near Warsaw. Its equipment is similar to that of the 1st Detachment.

c. 3rd Detachment, located on Polna Street with the WKSP. The detachment is organized into the following sections:

(1) Two sections, each of which is equipped with a tank car with automatic pumps.

(2) One section equipped with one Mayirus ladder

(3) One reinforced section (nine men), equipped with one fire engine with a motor pump and a large quantity of pipes.

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The 3rd Detachment has two cars equipped with radio sets. It also has oxygen apparatus, foam extinguishers, an adequate quantity of rope, telephone systems, and other equipment.

d. 4th Detachment (Marchlewski), located at the corner of Chtodma Street and the N-S line (?). It is equipped with two fire engines, one with a radio set, and a water container.

e. 5th Detachment, located at 2 Majdanska Street, Praga, near Targowa Street. It is equipped with two fire engines, two tank-cars, one Mayirus ladder and two radio sets.

f. 6th Detachment, located on MaryCmoncka Street, at the corner of Zjednoczenia Bld. It has the same equipment as the 5th Detachment, but no mechanical ladder.

g. 7th Detachment, located at 54 Pows. Slaskich Bld., Jelonki. Its equipment is similar to that of the 1st and 2nd detachments. The building is large enough to accommodate seven fire brigade sections.

h. 8th Detachment. This detachment, which also serves as a training center, has only one operative section, but, if necessary, at least four or five sections can be organized from the center's personnel.

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4. Minor operations are directed by commanders of the fire-fighting sections or detachments, subordinate to the duty officer of the alarm and command post. The latter, situated in the building of the Warsaw Fire Brigade Headquarters, has a common battery, hand-operated telephone exchange; a fire alarm center; one stationary radio set, installed in the Ministry of Communications building at 2 Chatubinski street, Warsaw (a 40 m high structure with a 52 m tall antenna); and one set mounted on a truck per area. For directing action from the command post, the duty officer has four portable radio sets, operating on a frequency of 41.15 megahertz, and a portable megaphone.

5. The following call-signs of radio sets are reported:

- a. The command post set - "Neptun"
- b. The Operations Officer's truck set - "Klamra"
- c. The Warsaw fire brigade command truck set - "Gwardia"
- d. Call-signs of radiotelephones on fire engines start

with the figures "01".

6. The radio sets and radiotelephones have an operational range of over 40 kilometers. The radio sets are made in Poland and equipped with Nowal tubes produced by [ ] plant. The

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radiotelephones are made by the workshops of the maritime service of Gdynia Radio Station. The transmitters are of the FM type. The four portable radio sets at the command post are of the P-12 type, made by [ ] plant, have a radius of up to two km and weigh 25 kg, including the battery. The Signals Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs greatly contributes towards furnishing the Fire Fighting Service with proper signals equipment. The departments of this Directorate are well equipped.

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7. Telephone numbers PB-08 and 40071 are used in Warsaw for fire alarm calls and the numbers have five extensions each at the exchange of the command post. Calls to the former number are free of charge from both private subscribers and public booths. A system of fire alarm signalization was established during 1956-1959. It consists of a network of electric cables, of exchanges installed in some of the detachments, and of alarm devices installed at distances of 300-500 meters along the streets of Warsaw. The latter have a signalling arrangement, released by the person detecting a fire, a telephone connection and an optical signal for the militia.

8. Fire fighting services of major institutions and industrial plants are connected by direct telephone lines to the Warsaw Fire

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Brigade or the nearest detachment. The commander of the Warsaw Fire Brigade is authorized to call up factory brigades in special cases, over the special line.

Wartime Organization

9. In case of war, the Warsaw Fire Brigade Headquarters is turned into a reinforced fire fighting regiment numbering 2,900 men, instead of the usual 800. (The present strength of the Warsaw Fire Brigade is 600-650 men.) The regimental headquarters is organized as follows:

- a. Regimental commander
- b. Chief of Staff and second-in-command of the operations department.
- c. Fire prevention department
- d. Signals department
- e. Administration and personnel department
- f. Quartermaster unit

10. The regimental headquarters is located at 193 (?) Kasprowicza Street, in the shelter which is connected with the Warsaw Civil Defense Command (TOPL). The shelter is built underneath a six-story building and consists of two floors. The first floor contains five small

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rooms for contact with AA observation posts, the commander's office (a large room), and a room for the telephone exchange. The second floor contains three or four rooms, a ventilation room, and a dosimeter chamber. The shelter is staffed by 30-40 men. The Emergency Command Post has a shelter in the Czerniakowska Street area, lower Mokotow Sielecka Street (?).

11. The regiment is to be organized into four battalions operating in Bialany, Henrykow, Wawer, and in either the Opacz Wielki or the Piaseczna area. Each battalion has 650 men and comprises: one service platoon each and their headquarters, an operations department, a quartermaster unit, a signals officer, and a dosimeter and signals section. Each company comprises three fire-fighting platoons, one water supply platoon, one dosimeter and signals section, and a cooks' section. Each fire-fighting platoon comprises the following:

a. Four fire-fighting sections of nine men each, equipped with four Polish GAM vehicles, with STAR-21 motors, and radio-telephones.

b. Water supply platoon, equipped with five km of pipe, six or ten motor pumps, four km of cable, and four to five field telephones.

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12. The establishment of permanent line and radio communications with TOPL is planned, and the first TOPL units were organized in late 1957. The organization of several fire-fighting companies attached to TOPL is also planned. In 1959 telephone lines were to be laid from the TOPL command post to the command post of the Fire Fighting Regiment on Kasprowicza Street and to the Emergency Command Post. Each TOPL unit commander, in charge of defense of a certain region, will assign duties directly to the respective battalion commander. The fire brigade is to be the first unit to enter the town after an air attack by nuclear or conventional weapons. A representative of the TOPL Command takes active part in fire fighting exercises under wartime conditions and gives orders on the spot.

13. For radiotelephone contact with TOPL units, a channel with a frequency of 41.3 megahertz is to be used. This channel is now being tested by crystal sets. In case of mobilization, other TOPL fire fighting companies are to be incorporated into the Fire Fighting Regiment.

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14. The following individuals head the Warsaw Fire Brigade:

a. Lt. Colonel Zygmunt Jarosz is the commanding officer of the Warsaw Fire Brigade.

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b. Major Rafalski (fmu), second-in-command of the Warsaw Fire Brigade, is a political officer.

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15. The following individuals are with the Central Fire Brigade Directorate:

a. Colonel Bilewski (fmu) is deputy commander in charge of operations.

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b. Colonel Darczewski (fmu), commander of the Fire Brigade Directorate

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c. Lt. Colonel Pogorzelski (fmu), commanding officer of the Supply Department of the directorate, has been an officer since before World War II.

d. Major Uswiecien (fmu) [redacted] is commanding officer of the Operations Department at the directorate. [redacted]

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e. Lt. Colonel Zygmant (fmu) is commanding officer of the Military Department at the directorate. [redacted]

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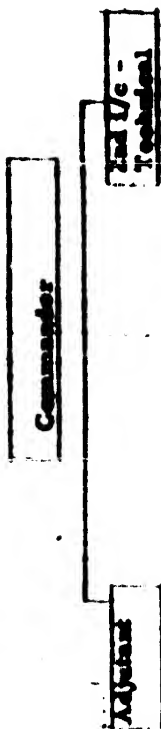
Accompanying this report are the following attachments:

- Attach. 1 - Structure of the Fire Brigade Directorate
- Attach. 2 - Organization of the Warsaw Fire Brigade Headquarters
- Attach. 3 - System of Line Communications for Directing Warsaw Fire Brigade Detachments.

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Organization and Staff Dept.

Operations Department

Fire Prevention Department

Military Department

Financial and Administration Section

Training Department

Prevention Commands

Commands of the main towns  
(WARSAW, LODZ, CRAWOW, POZNAN, etc.)  
(LAW)

School of Fire-Fighting Officers in WARSAW

Fire-Fighting Technicians in POZNAN

Senior NCO's School in KENIG

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Fire-Fighting Inspection Board of the Min. of Coal Mining and Electric Power

Fire-Fighting Inspection Board of the Ministry of Heavy Industry

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[Redacted]

Commander

2nd Lt/c

Signals Ser-  
vices Station

Operations Dept.	Fire Prevention Dept.	Organization and Personnel Dept.	Quartermaster unit	Equipment Service Station.	Training Centre
Directorate of the Voluntary Fire Bri- gade Association	Right Fire Brigade detachments.	Right Fire Brigade detachments.			
Medicines Detachment	Water Detach- ment	Engine Detach- ment	Henryhow Detach- ment	William Detach- ment	Wolke Wagon detachment
Chapman		Newton	Hammerlow Fire Brigade Post	Yacine Fire Bri- gade Post	

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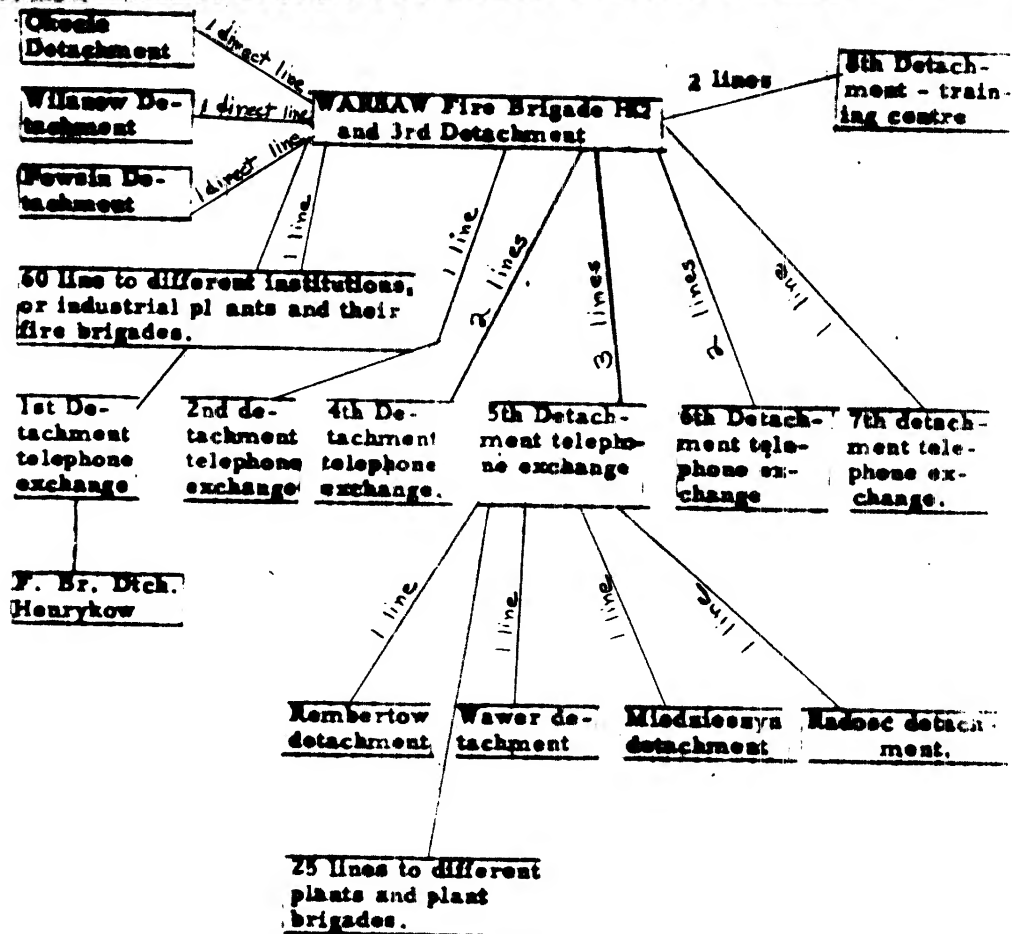
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Remark: Every detachment has a telephone exchange and some have a fire-alarm centre.

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